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Imagery analysis report

## Iraq/Iran Military Summary

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**IRAQ/IRAN MILITARY SUMMARY.**

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1. (S/D) This report updates the most recent<sup>1</sup> in a series of imagery-derived reports on the Iraq/Iran conflict and covers the period from [ ] This report discusses deployed ground forces in the forward area, rear garrison units (Figure 1), airfields, naval bases, commercial shipping, POL facilities, and related activity in Jordan. Military unit designators and subordination (where used) are derived from collateral sources.<sup>2</sup> Acronyms and abbreviations are defined in a glossary at the end of the report. Additional reports will be issued as the situation changes.

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**OVERVIEW**

2. (S/D) Imagery of the forward area of conflict during the reporting period showed that the Iraqis still controlled the city of Khorramshahr north of the Karun River. The Iranians still controlled Abadan, with the major elements of an Iraqi armored brigade and a mechanized infantry brigade remaining north and east of the city. However, two Iranian forces have been identified north and east of these Iraqi brigade elements. Heavy fighting continued northwest of Ahvaz at Susangerd, where the Iranians still controlled the town. There appeared to have been some reinforcement/repositioning of the Iranian forces in this area. The Iranians still controlled the city of Ahvaz. There was only limited coverage of the conflict area around Dezful.

3. (S/D) Three Iraqi and ten Iranian rear area garrisons/facilities were imaged. Troops were observed training at two facilities in Tehran.

4. (S/D) Four Iraqi and 19 Iranian airfields were imaged. A Cuban CLASSIC aircraft was seen at Tehran/Mehrabad Airfield, Iran, and a C-130 aircraft was seen at Semnan New Airfield in Iran.

5. (S/D) Naval activity was seen at two Iraqi and four Iranian naval/port facilities.

6. (S/D) Ten Iraqi and 17 Iranian POL-related facilities were observed. New damage was seen at two Iranian facilities. A very large number of POL trucks and utility vehicles were observed at the Rey Refinery in Tehran.

7. (S/D) Related activity included heavy vehicular activity at the Iranian/Turkish border transshipment point at Bazargan and the presence of Iraqi aircraft at Amman, Jordan.

**GROUND FORCES ACTIVITY****Iraq/Iran Forward Areas****Khorramshahr/Abadan Area**

8. (S/D) Iraqi forces remained in control of Khorramshahr north of the Karun River on [ ] (Figure 2). No additional damage was discernible to the bridge over the Karun River linking Khorramshahr and Abadan. No Iraqi units could be identified in Khorramshahr; however, two mechanized infantry platoons were approximately 4 nm north-northeast of the city.

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9. (S/D) Iraqi units observed on the west bank of the Shatt Al Arab opposite Abadan on [ ] included one FA battalion and one AA battery 4 nm southwest of the city. Additional forces, consisting of one FA battalion, two FA batteries, and two AA batteries, which were reported in this area on [ ] were no longer present.

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10. (S/D) Iraqi forces deployed north and east of Abadan on [ ] included major maneuver elements of an armor brigade and a mechanized infantry brigade, supported by three FA battalions, one FA battery, three AA batteries, and a field-deployed logistics unit.

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11. (S/D) Iranian units observed in the defense of Abadan included two FA batteries and two AA batteries 6 nm and 10 nm, respectively, southeast of Abadan.

12. (S/D) Two Iranian forces, previously identified as Iraqi, were observed northeast and north-northeast of Abadan on [ ] An Iranian tank company and an infantry unit were astride the Abadan-to-Bandar E-Mashur oil pipeline, 10.5 nm northeast of Abadan, on [ ] The second Iranian force was observed on [ ] between 15.5 and 24.0 nm north-northeast of Abadan and only 3 nm north-northeast of the Iraqi PMP bridge over the Karun River. This Iranian force consisted of one tank platoon, two mechanized infantry companies, one mechanized infantry platoon, and two FA batteries. Grading of a dirt road linking the northernmost FA battery to an existing improved-surface road was observed.

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**Ahvaz Area**

13. (S/D) The Ahvaz area was observed on [ ] Figure 3).

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14. (S/D) Iraqi forces advancing toward Susangerd from the northwest during this reporting period consisted of one tank battalion, two tank companies, one mechanized infantry battalion, three mechanized infantry companies, and one FA battalion. Major elements of an Iraqi tank brigade, a mechanized infantry battalion, and an AA battalion remained 7 nm south-southeast of Susangerd. This Iraqi tank brigade

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was supported by two FA battalions and an AA battery 4 nm to the south of the brigade and just south of the bridgehead across the Rud Kaneh-Ye Karkheh Kor River.

15. (S/D) Iranian forces defending the Susangerd area and the Susangerd/Ahvaz road consisted of one tank battalion, four tank companies, one tank platoon, three mechanized infantry battalions, one mechanized infantry platoon, one 175mm SP gun battery, one 155mm SP gun battalion, and one FA battery. The bridge over the Shatt-E Neysan, separating Iraqi and Iranian forces at Susangerd, was destroyed (Figures 4 and 5), and extensive earth grading was observed in the southern outskirts of the city.

16. (S/D) Iraqi forces observed west and southwest of Ahvaz consisted of two tank battalions, one tank company, and three FA battalions. The area occupied by the major elements of a previously reported Iraqi armor brigade 9 nm west and southwest of the city was not imaged during the reporting period. Additional flooding in a previously reported area of flooding 9 nm west of Ahvaz was also observed.

17. (S/D) The only Iranian forces imaged defending Ahvaz were 6 nm northwest of the city and consisted of one tank company and two 155mm SP gun batteries. Three antitank ditches were observed just forward of the Iranian positions and across the Susangerd/Ahvaz road. Construction of a ditch of undetermined use was also observed at the western edge of the area of flooding.

#### Dezful Area

18. (S/D) Heavy cloud cover prevented complete observation of the Dezful area during the reporting period. Only one Iranian tank on the east bank of the Karkheh River, approximately 12 nm west of Dezful, could be seen on [redacted] Partial coverage of Dezful Barracks and Brigade Headquarters [redacted] on that date indicated that there had been no change in the status of equipment since [redacted]

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#### Rear Area

##### Iraq

19. (S/D) A mechanized infantry company deployed immediately south of Umm Qasr SA-2 Site A29 2 [redacted] departed the area between [redacted]

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20. (S/D) A new SAM Site, Kirkuk SA-3 SAM Site West [redacted] was constructed 2.8 nm northwest of Kirkuk Airfield [redacted] at 35-29-00N 044-18-45E between [redacted]

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21. (S/D) Conversion of Kirkuk SA-3 SAM Site North Number 1 [redacted] to an SA-2 site was nearly complete on [redacted] The site, which was first observed under conversion on [redacted] had five occupied SA-2 launch positions and an occupied guidance area on [redacted] and was probably operational.

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##### Iran

22. (S/D) Major elements of the armor brigade remained out of garrison at Tehran Barracks and Brigade Headquarters Lavizan [redacted] One AB-214 helicopter arrived at the facility between [redacted] Ten Chieftain tanks, 13 BTR-60 APCs, numerous support vehicles, five AB-214 helicopters, and three Jet Ranger helicopters were observed at this facility on [redacted]

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23. (S/D) Varying numbers of troops were observed training on the parade fields at two ground force installations in Tehran during the reporting period. The approximate number of troops seen at Tehran Barracks Imperial Guard Brigade Saltanabad [redacted] ranged from 150 to 1,000 as follows: 150 troops on [redacted] 1,000 troops on 27 November, 200 troops on [redacted] and 250 troops on [redacted] Approximately 500 troops were training at Tehran Military Post Jai (BE [redacted])

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24. (S/D) One AB-214 helicopter arrived at Tehran Military Police Barracks Jamshidiyeh [redacted]

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25. (S/D) No unusual activity or changes were observed at six additional ground forces installations in Tehran on [redacted]

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#### AIR ACTIVITY

26. (S/D) Four Iraqi airfields and 19 Iranian airfields were imaged during the reporting period (Figure 6). No new damage was observed at any of the airfields.

##### Iraq

27. (S/D) Two airfields in the Kirkuk area—Kirkuk Airfield [redacted] and K-1 Airfield (BE [redacted])—and two airfields in west central Iraq—K-2 Airfield [redacted] and K-3 Airfield [redacted]—were imaged between [redacted] No significant change was observed.

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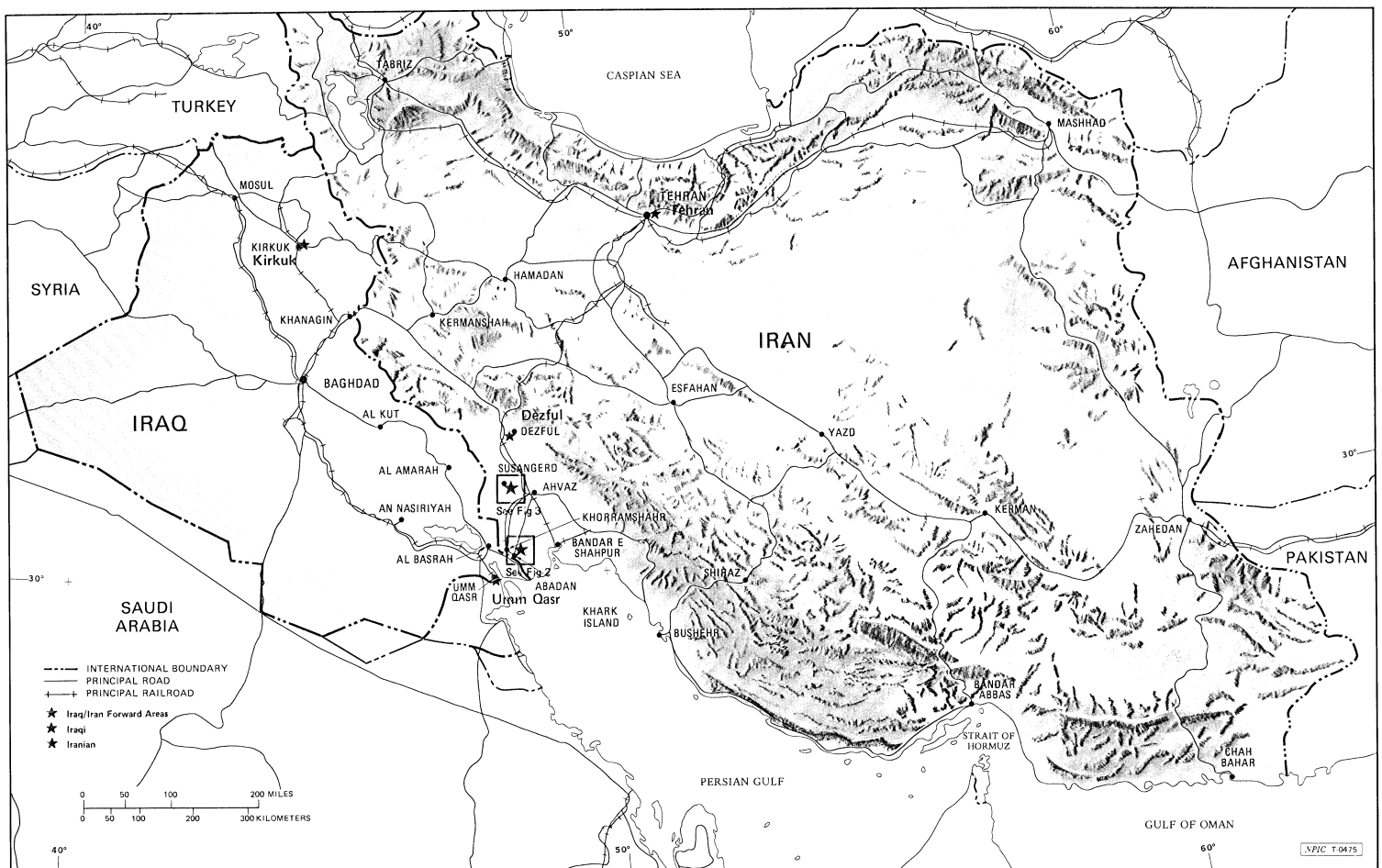


FIGURE 1. IRAQI/IRANIAN GROUND FORCES ACTIVITY

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**FIGURE 2. GROUND FORCES ACTIVITY, KHORRAMSHAHR/ABADAN AREA, IRAN, ON**

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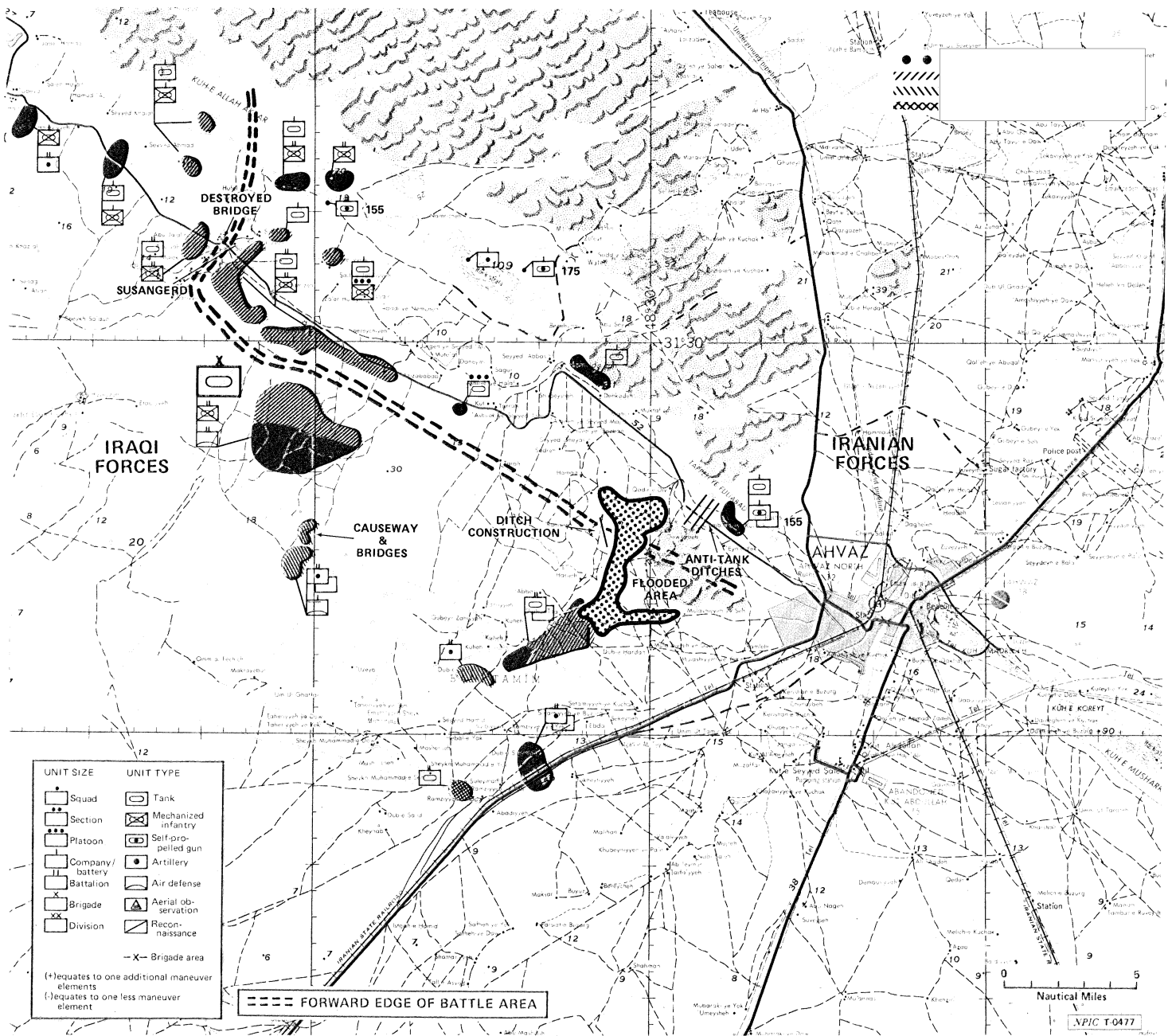


FIGURE 3. GROUND FORCES ACTIVITY, AHVAZ AREA, IRAN, ON

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28. (S/D) Six airfields in the Tehran area, one airfield in the battle area, one F-14 airbase, and 11 airfields along the southern coast of Iran were imaged between [ ] 25X1
29. (S/D) One CLASSIC with Cuban civil markings was observed at the civil terminal area at Tehran/Mehrabad International Airfield [ ] (Figure 7). In addition, one 707 25X1  
with unidentified civil markings was observed on a parking apron near the military area. Both aircraft 25X1  
had probably been present on [ ]
30. (S/D) One C-130 was observed at Semnan New Airfield [ ] Two 25X1  
C-130s had been seen here on [ ] 25X1
31. (S/D) Five F-14 and six F-5 fighter planes were observed at Khatami AB Airfield [ ] 25X1  
[ ] Nine F-14s, one probable F-14, and three F-5s were observed on [ ] 25X1
32. (S/D) No significant change was observed at the following airfields:
- Tehran Mehrabad Helicopter Field [ ] 25X1
  - Tehran Doshan/Tappeh Airfield [ ] 25X1
  - Tehran Ghale/Morghi Airfield [ ] 25X1
  - Manzariyeh Airfield [ ] 25X1
  - Vahdati AB Airfield [ ]
  - Abadan International Airfield [ ] 25X1
  - Bahregan Airfield [ ] 25X1
  - Gorreh Airfield [ ] 25X1
  - Khark Island Airfield [ ] 25X1
  - Bushehr Airfield [ ] 25X1
  - Bushehr Helicopter Field [ ] 25X1
  - Bandar Abbas International Airfield [ ] 25X1
  - Bandar Abbas NAS Airfield [ ] 25X1
  - Jask Airfield [ ] 25X1
  - Chah Bahar AB Airfield [ ] 25X1
  - Chah Bahar Airfield [ ] 25X1

**NAVAL ACTIVITY****Iraq**

33. (S/D) Two P-6 PTs departed Umm Qasr Naval Base [ ] and one Polnocny LSM 25X1  
departed its mooring upstream from the naval base between [ ] Naval vessels present at the 25X1  
base on [ ] included two OSA PTGs, one SO-1 PCS, and three P-6 PTs. No battle damage was 25X1  
observed at the naval base. Three additional OSA PTGs were at Umm Qasr Port Facilities [ ] 25X1  
and two more OSA PTGs and one Polnocny LSM were moored upstream from the port facilities.

**Iran**

34. (S/D) One probable MK-III PB and one probable LCU remained at the quay at Khorramshahr 25X1  
Naval Base Repair and Storage Facility [ ]
35. (S/D) One Wellington LCMA arrived at Khark Island Hovercraft Base [ ] 25X1  
[ ] Five Wellington LCMAs and four Winchester PBA/PCFAs were present on [ ] 25X1
36. (S/D) One PF-103 PF and one La Combattante-IIB (Kamen) PTG departed and one MK-III PB 25X1  
arrived at Bushehr Naval Base [ ] one PF-103 PF 25X1  
and a La Combattante-IIB (Kamen) PTG had returned to port, and one MK-III PB had departed. Vessels in  
port on [ ] included two PF-103 PFs, seven La Combattante-IIB (Kamen) PTGs, and six MK-III PBs. 25X1

**COMMERCIAL SHIPPING****Shatt Al Arab**

37. (S/D) The Shatt Al Arab from 30-27-45N 047-58-35E to 30-07-40N 048-23-10E, including Abu Flus 25X1  
Port Facility [ ] Iraq; Khorramshahr Port Facilities [ ] Iran; and Abadan Port 25X1  
Facilities [ ] Iran, was imaged on [ ] Fifteen freighters, two tankers, 24 coastal/small  
freighters, and three ARD-Ds were either at the port facilities, aground, or in midriver.
38. (S/D) Three freighters had arrived at the quay at Abu Flus Port Facility since [ ] and were 25X1  
moored outboard of three freighters which had previously been moored at the quay. These newly arrived vessels

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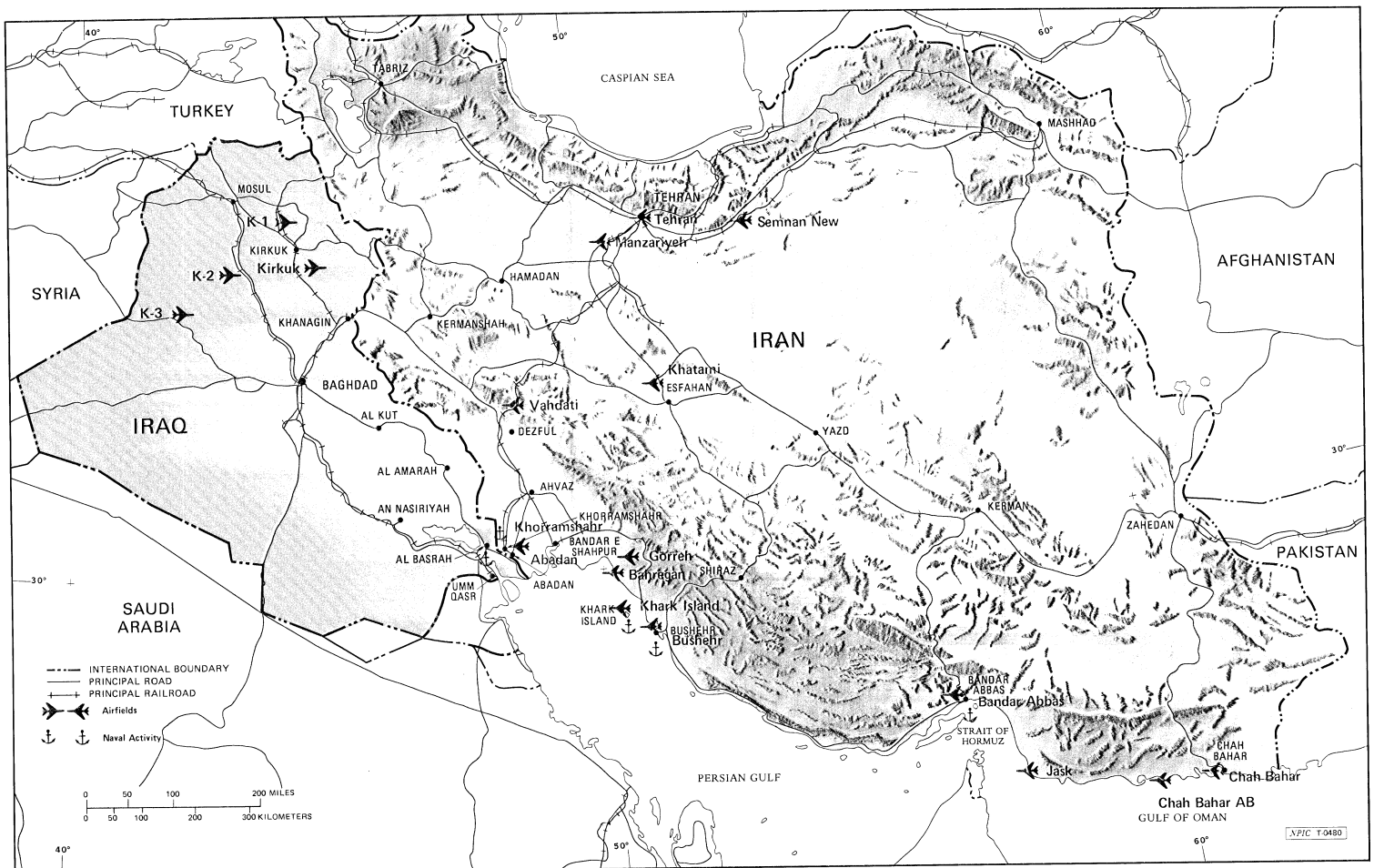


FIGURE 6. IRAQI/IRANIAN AIR AND NAVAL FACILITIES

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had probably been moored upstream from the port facilities, but obliquity prevented an accurate determination of their previous mooring positions.

39. (S/D) No additional battle damage was observed at Khorramshahr Port Facilities. Two freighters remained at the quay. One freighter, which had been at a damaged portion of the quay on [ ] was moored in midriver. The freighter, which had been riding low in the water perpendicular to and blocking the channel, remained immediately south of the port. However, two coastal/small freighters which had been moored in midriver near the port facilities on [ ] had been moved and were moored downstream of the disabled freighter on [ ] indicating that at least ships of this size are able to go around the disabled vessel. One coastal/small freighter remained low in the water 1 nm south of the port. One freighter, smoking amidships, was moored 2 nm south of the port.

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40. (S/D) No additional damage was observed at Abadan Port Facilities. One ARD-D remained low in the water near the port, one coastal/small freighter remained low in the water 1 nm north of the port, and nine coastal/small freighters remained low in the water or aground because of tidal conditions 1 nm southeast of the port.

#### **Iraq**

41. (S/D) Three OSA PTGs, five freighters (including one Leninskiy Komsomol), two container ships, one coastal/small freighter, and one probable automobile carrier were at the quay at Umm Qasr Port Facilities [ ]. Three coastal/small freighters were moored in open water upstream from the port facilities. No additional battle damage was observed.

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#### **Strait of Hormuz**

42. (S/D) Between [ ] one Sumner DDG, one Hengham LST, one LCU, and one Kangan AWK departed Bandar Abbas Port Facilities Suru [ ]. Vessels in port on [ ] included one Battle DDG, one Sumner DDG, three Vosper MK-5 FFGs (SAAM), two PGM-71 PGMs, six MK-III PBs, six PBRs, one Hengham LST (in the large graving dock), 2 LCUs (one in the small graving dock), one Bandar Abbas AORL, one Kangan AWK, one Michaelangelo APB, one Amphion AR, and one ARD-T.

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43. (S/D) In addition to the naval activity, commercial ship activity was also observed at the port during the reporting period. Six oceangoing freighters and three bulk carriers were in port on [ ]. [ ] seven oceangoing freighters and two special-purpose merchant ships were in port, and the bulk carriers had departed.

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44. (S/D) A large number of merchant vessels were in a holding area in the Persian Gulf south of the port on [ ] (Figure 8). Seventeen oceangoing freighters (at least two with unidentified deck cargo) and three coastal freighters were present on [ ] When the holding area was last observed, on [ ] only one oceangoing freighter, one coastal freighter, and two tankers were present. Only one oceangoing freighter could be seen on partial coverage of the holding area on [ ]
45. (S/D) Four medium general cargo ships and three medium bulk cargo ships were at the quay of Shah Bandar Abbas Port Facility [ ] Materiel from six of the ships was being offloaded onto trucks. Seven additional medium general cargo ships were moored in the protective anchorage. Materiel was being offloaded from four of these vessels onto barges. The small general cargo ship, the three medium bulk carriers, and one of the medium general cargo ships seen at the quay on [ ] had departed.

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**POL FACILITIES**

46. (S/D) Ten Iraqi facilities were observed—one in Buzurgan, seven in Kirkuk, and two southwest of Kirkuk (Figure 9). Seventeen Iranian facilities were imaged—14 in the southwestern portion of the country, one in Esfahan, and two in Tehran. New damage was observed at two Iranian POL-related facilities during the reporting period.

**Iran**

47. (S/D) Additional damage was observed at the two POL-related facilities in Abadan on [ ] Seven additional POL tanks with a total capacity of 575,000 barrels were destroyed, and one additional tank was damaged at Abadan Petroleum Refinery NIOC [ ] This reduces the total capacity of the facility from the original 15,696,376-barrel storage capacity to no more than 14,432,500 barrels.
48. (S/D) Two additional POL tanks with a total capacity of 280,000 barrels were destroyed at Abadan Petroleum Product Storage and Pumping Station Transfer Iran 1 [ ] The current storage capacity at this facility is at most 5,650,500 barrels—down from a prewar capacity of 14,030,500 barrels.
49. (S/D) A fire was burning in an oil drainage pond adjacent to the POL storage tanks at Jazireh Ye Khark POL Terminal [ ] The fire had not been observed on [ ]
50. (S/D) Approximately 500 POL trucks and utility vehicles (the largest number ever seen here) were parked in convoy along the road and the perimeter of the facility and at the pumping station at Rey Petroleum Refinery and Storage [ ] (Figure 10). The line of vehicles was 1.5 nm long. Approximately 320 vehicles had been observed at the facility on [ ]
51. (S/D) No change in status was observed at the following facilities:

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**Iraq**

- Al Hadithah Petroleum Topping Pumping and Storage K-3 [ ]
- Bayji K2 Petroleum Pumping and Storage Station [ ]
- Buzurgan Northern Gas Oil Separation Plant [ ]
- Hanjira Degassing Station [ ]
- Jabulur Degassing Station [ ]
- Kirkuk Gas Absorption and Stabilization Plant North [ ]
- Kirkuk Petroleum Pumping Station and Storage K-1 [ ]
- Kirkuk Petroleum Refinery and Storage [ ]
- Kirkuk Petroleum Storage Town [ ]
- Qutan Degassing Station [ ]

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**Iran**

- Agha Jari Gas Oil Separation Plant [ ]
- Agha Jari Petroleum Stabilization Plant AIOC [ ]
- Emam Hasan Crude Petroleum Storage Terminal Strip [ ]
- Esfahan Petroleum Refinery Northwest [ ]
- Gach Saran Gas Oil Separation Plant PU 3 [ ]
- Gach Saran Gas Oil Separation Plant PU 4 [ ]
- Gorreh Crude Oil Booster Pumping Station [ ]
- Jazireh Ye Khark Petroleum Facilities [ ]
- Khorramshahr Petroleum Products Storage South [ ]
- Marun Gas Oil Separation Plant PU 2 [ ]
- Marun Gas Oil Separation Plant PU 5 [ ]
- Omidiyeh Ye Dovvam Crude Pumping Station No 2 [ ]
- Rey Petroleum Refinery and Storage [ ]
- Shiraz Petroleum Refinery Takht E Jamshid [ ]
- Tehran Petroleum Storage NIOC [ ]

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## OTHER

### Iran

52. (S/D) The major border transshipment point on the Iranian/Turkish border near Bazargan, Iran, appeared to be open and operational on [ ] Approximately 220 trucks and 200 sedans were on the Iranian side of the border, while approximately 300 trucks were inside Turkey. This was an increase of approximately 165 trucks inside Turkey since [ ] while the number of trucks and sedans in Iran was nearly the same on both dates. 25X1 25X1

53. (S/D) Smoke was rising from a tree-covered area in the western portion of the US Embassy Tehran [ ] The smoke was not evident on [ ] No unusual activity was observed at the embassy on [ ] 25X1 25X1

### Jordan

54. (S/D) Iraqi civil aircraft were observed at Amman Airfield [ ] Jordan, on [ ] 25X1  
[ ] One 707, one 737, and one 747 were present on [ ] the 737 had departed, 25X1  
and an additional 707 and 747 had arrived at the airfield. The 737 at Amman airfield may have previously been at Shaheed Mwaffaq Airfield [ ] Jordan, where two Iraqi CANDIDs and two Iraqi 737s, present 25X1  
since the beginning of the Iraq/Iran conflict, departed between [ ] 25X1

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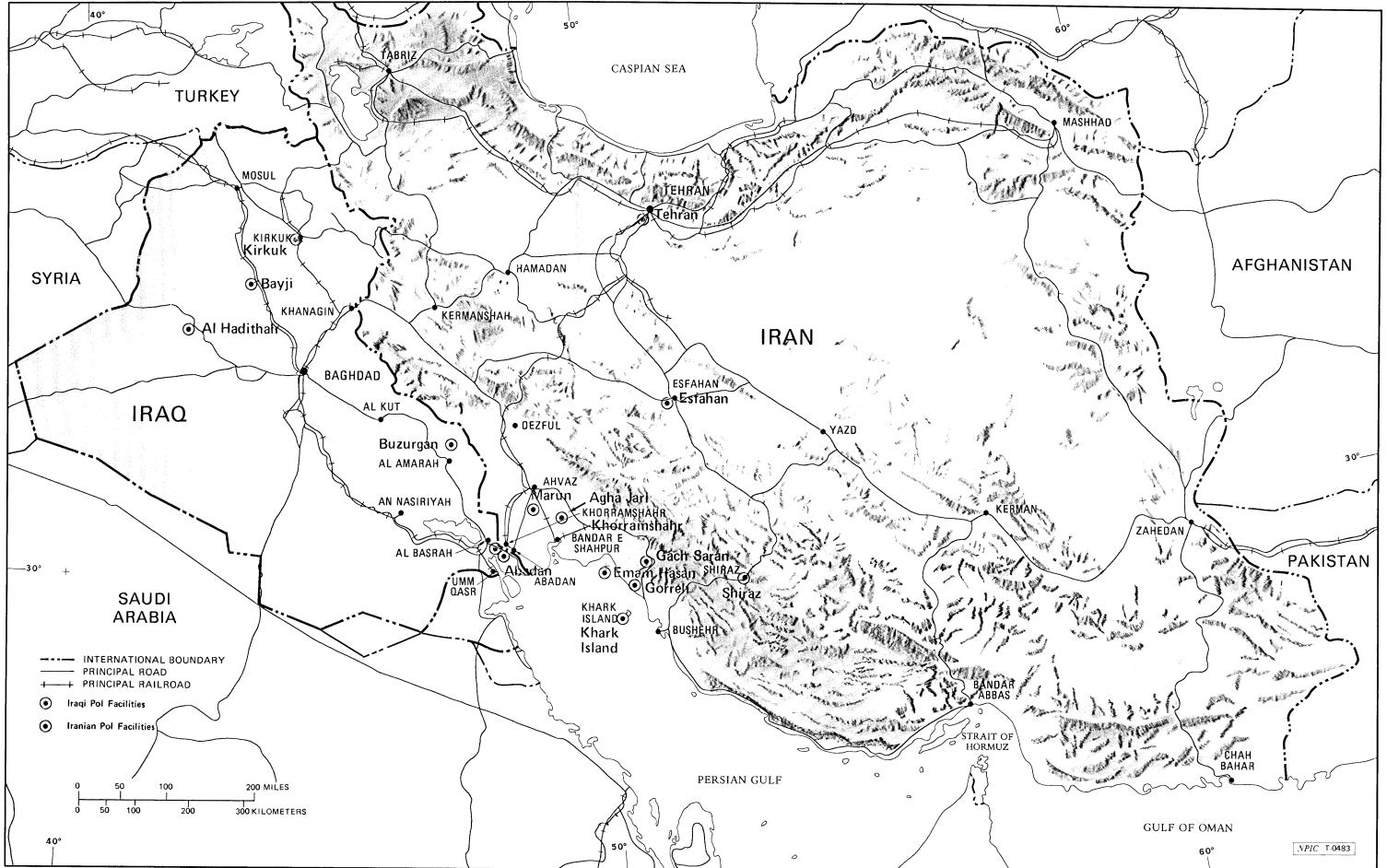


FIGURE 9. POL FACILITIES IN IRAQ AND IRAN

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## GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

*This glossary in its entirety is UNCLASSIFIED*

AA	Antiaircraft
AAA	Antiaircraft artillery
AD	Air defense
AORL	Small replenishment oiler
APB	Barracks ship
APC	Armored personnel carrier
AR	Repair ship
ARD-D	Floating drydock
ARD-T	Auxiliary repair dock
AW	Air warning
AWK	Water carrier
AX	Training ship
CP	Command post
DD	Destroyer
DDG	Guided missile destroyer
DIW	Dead in the water
EW	Early warning
FA	Field artillery
FFG	Guided missile frigate
LCMA	Air cushion medium landing craft
LCM	Medium landing craft
LCU	Utility landing craft
LSM	Medium amphibious assault landing ship
LST	Amphibious vehicle landing ship
MRL	Multiple rocket launcher
MSC	Coastal minesweeper
MSF	Fleet minesweeper
MSI	Inshore minesweeper
NM	Nautical miles
PACV	Patrol air cushion vehicle
PB	Patrol boat
PBA/PCFA	Patrol boat air cushion
PBR	River/roadstead patrol boat
PCL	Small submarine chaser
PCS	Submarine chaser
PF	Patrol frigate
PGM	Motor gunboat
PMP	Heavy folding ponton bridge
POL	Petroleum, oil, and lubricant
PT	Torpedo boat
PTG	Missile attack boat
RTP	Rail-to-road transfer point
RO/RO	Roll-on/roll-off
SAM	Surface-to-air missile
SP	Self-propelled
SPAA	Self-propelled antiaircraft
SPG	Self-propelled gun
SSM	Surface-to-surface missile
TEL	Transporter-erector-launcher
TMM	Truck-mounted bridge
VLCC	Very large crude carrier

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**REFERENCES**

**IMAGERY**

(S/D) All applicable satellite imagery acquired from [ ] was used in the preparation of this report. 25X1

**MAPS OR CHARTS**

DoD. Joint Operations Graphics, Various Sheets (UNCLASSIFIED, Distribution Restricted)

**DOCUMENTS**

1. NPIC, Z-20187/80, IAR-0331/80, *Iraq/Iran Military Summary*, [ ] (S), 26 Nov 80 (SECRET/[ ]) 25X1  
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2. DIA, DDB-1100-IZ-80, *Ground Order of Battle: Iraq (U)*, Jan 80 (SECRET/[ ]) 25X1

DIA, DDB-1100-IR-78, *Ground Order of Battle: Iran (U)*, Aug 78 (SECRET/[ ]) 25X1

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(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to the South Asia/Arabia Branch, Third World Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, [ ] 25X1

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